




U C K F I E L D  
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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THE  
A N N U A L R E P O R T  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE YEAR  
1939



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## HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE

From 1st January - 31st March 1939.

Chairman - Mr G. Watson  
Deputy Chairman - Mr H. C. Corke

Major-Gen Sir Hugh B Bruce-Williams	Mr. J. R. Owen (ex-officio).
Mr J. R. Coulthard	Mr F. E. Priestley.
Major C. H. Crichton.	Mr. F. W. Shaw.
Mr J. Mathison Fraser	Mr A. T. H. Smith.
Mr. H. C. Harbord.	Sir Reginald Spence.
Mr. D. Horscroft.	Mr. S. Tooth.
Lieut.-Colonel G. R. Miller.	Dr. E. A. Wharton
Mr J. E. Morfett.	Mr C. N. Wortors
Mr F. H. Nias (ex-officio).	Mr E. A. Wallis

From 1st April - 31st December 1939.

Chairman - Mr G. Watson  
Deputy Chairman - Mr. H. C. Corke.

Major-Gen. Sir Hugh B. Bruce-Williams.	Mr. F. H. Nias.
Mr J. R. Coulthard	Mr J. R. Owen.
Mr. J. Mathison Fraser	Mr F. E. Priestley.
Mr H. C. Harbord.	Mr. F. W. Shaw.
Mr. C. Anley Hawes	Mr. A. T. H. Smith.
Mr D. Horscroft.	Sir Reginald Spence.
Lt. Col E. C. Lentaigne.	Mr E. A. Wallis.
Mr. A. E. McLaren.	Dr. E. A. Wharton
Lieut.-Colonel G. R. Miller.	Mr. G. W. Williams.

### STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health, Assistant  
County School Medical Officer, and  
Medical Superintendent High Grove  
Isolation Hospital .....

J. Petrie,  
M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspectors:-

Senior Sanitary Inspector .....

A. J. Williams,  
M.R.San I., M.S.I.A.

District Sanitary Inspectors . . .

G. F. Hawkins,  
Cert. S.I.B., C.R.S.I.  
(Meat and Foods).

S. S. Garrard,  
Cert S.I.B., C.R.S.I.  
(Meat and Foods).

Resigned: 31.3.39

R. K. Dunning,  
Cert S.I.B., C.R.S.I.  
(Meat and Foods)

Appointed: 1.5.39.

Chief Clerk .....

Miss M. J. Baldock

Second Clerk . . .

H. F. Daw.  
Appointed 23.1.39  
Resigned 9.9.39

Junior Shorthand Typist .....

Miss S. Rowell.  
Appointed 14.9.39.

# STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area . . . . . 112,099 acres

Population:-

ø Registrar-General's estimate of resident population for mid-1939. . . . . (a) 38,780  
(b) 41,010

Population, 1931 Census. . . . . 38,239

Density of Population per acre . . . . . 0.34

Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1939) according to Rate Books. . . . . 11,881

Rateable Value (31st December, 1939) . . . . . £295,451

Sum represented by One Penny Rate. . . . . £1,160

ø (a) Population for calculation of birth rate.  
(b) Population for calculation of death rate.

## UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES.

Crowborough	Males	Females	Total
Quarter ended 31st March, 1939 . . . .	87	14	101
" " 30th June, 1939 . . . . .	105	15	120
" " 30th September, 1939. . . . .	141	30	171
" " 31st December, 1939.. . . .	180	39	219

Uckfield:

Quarter ended 31st March, 1939 . . . .	114	15	129
" " 30th June, 1939 . . . . .	104	8	112
" " 30th September, 1939. . . . .	69	19	88
" " 31st December, 1939.. . . .	155	22	177

Wadhurst.

Quarter ended 31st March, 1939 . . . .	62	4	66
" " 30th June, 1939 . . . . .	29	1	30
" " 30th September, 1939. . . . .	31	1	32
" " 31st December, 1939.. . . .	94	9	103

This branch office covers an area of which a part is outside the Uckfield Rural District.

## VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births.	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate . . . . .	440	232	208
Illegitimate . . . . .	<u>23</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>10</u>
Total Live Births . . . . .	<u>463</u>	<u>245</u>	<u>218</u>

Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population.. 11.94



Stillbirths.	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate . . . . .	14	10	4
Illegitimate . . . . .	—	—	—
Total Stillbirths . . . . .	14	10	4
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births :..			28.35

Deaths.	Total	Males	Females
	480	247	233
CRUDE DEATH RATE per 1,000 estimated resident population . . . . .			11.70
DEATH RATE corrected for comparison with that of Country as a whole. . . . .			9.47

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES.

(Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar General's Short List)

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
No. 29 Puerperal Sepsis . .	Nil	—
No. 30 Other Puerperal Causes	Nil	—

Death Rate of Infants under One Year of Age.

All infants per 1,000 live births . . . . .	17.05
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	15.69
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births . . . . .	43.47
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) . . . . .	83
Deaths from Measles (all ages) . . . . .	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) . . . . .	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) . . . . .	Nil

Cause of Death	Age at Death	
	Male	Female
Convulsions - Atelectasis	1 week	1 month
Cerebral Haemorrhage - obstructed labour	7 hours	
Congenital Obliteration of Bile Ducts	4 weeks	
Congenital Malformation of Heart - Patent Foramen Ovale	20 hours	
Dangerous Feebleness - Patent Foramen Ovale	1 day	
Broncho - Pneumonia	8 months	
Congenital Heart Disease		21 hours

#### TOTAL DEATHS.

	Males	Females	Total
Diphtheria . . . . .	1	-	1
Influenza . . . . .	3	5	8
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	10	7	17
Other Tuberculosis . . . . .	1	1	2
Syphilis . . . . .	-	1	1
Cancer . . . . .	44	39	83
Diabetes . . . . .	3	4	7
Cerebral Haemorrhage . . . . .	10	14	24
Heart Disease . . . . .	85	65	150
Aneurysm . . . . .	-	1	1
Other Circulatory Diseases . . . . .	13	19	32
Bronchitis . . . . .	7	4	11
Pneumonia (all forms) . . . . .	8	6	14
Other Respiratory Diseases . . . . .	3	1	4
Peptic Ulcer . . . . .	2	-	2
Appendicitis . . . . .	1	1	2
Cirrhosis of Liver . . . . .	1	-	1
Other Liver Diseases . . . . .	-	4	4
Other Digestive Diseases . . . . .	4	3	7
Acute and Chronic Nephritis . . . . .	7	12	19
Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, etc . . . . .	6	2	8
Senility . . . . .	8	16	24
Suicide . . . . .	5	1	6
Other Violence . . . . .	11	6	17
Other Defined Diseases . . . . .	14	20	34
Diarrhoea (2 years and over) . . . . .	-	1	1
	<u>247</u>	<u>233</u>	<u>480</u>

# MORTALITY IN AGE GROUPS.

AGE GROUPS.	Number of Deaths.		
	Males	Females	Total
0 .....	6	2	8
1 .....	4	2	6
5 .....	2	-	2
10 .....	-	-	-
15 .....	4	3	7
25 .....	3	8	11
35 .....	9	10	19
45 .....	21	21	42
55 .....	49	30	79
65 .....	63	50	113
75 and over .....	86	107	193
TOTALS .....	247	233	480

## BIRTH RATES AND DEATH RATES IN THE YEAR 1939

(England and Wales, 126 County Borough and Great Towns including London, and 148 Smaller Towns)

	Rate per 1,000 Population		Annual Death-Rate Per 1,000 Population	Rate per 1,000 Live Births
	Live Births	Still Births	All Causes	Total deaths Under 1 year
ENGLAND AND WALES	15.0	0.59	12.1	50
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London.	14.8	0.59	12.0	53
148 Smaller Towns (Resident popula- tions 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census).	15.6	0.57	11.2	40
UCKFIELD RURAL	11.94	0.36	9.47	17



## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

### LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Bacteriological examination of specimens was carried out by the Clinical Research Association, Ltd, London and by the Emergency Public Health Laboratory Service, Horsham.

### AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

These remain as previously reported and appear to be adequate.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

### WATER SUPPLIES.

No changes have taken place in the sources of main water supply in the area. Samples of water from these supplies are submitted periodically for chemical analysis and bacteriological examination, and the results have been consistently satisfactory.

Ninety-one samples of water from existing wells and springs were analysed by the Public Analyst. The following results were obtained :-

Satisfactory .....	22.
Unsatisfactory (primary) .....	43.
Unsatisfactory (repeat) .....	19.
Satisfactory (repeat) .....	4.
Unsatisfactory due to turbidity of the water .....	3.
	<u>91.</u>

Main water has been laid on to nineteen properties where the water was found to be unsatisfactory.

### ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

Six visits were made in connection with the eradication of bed bugs and disinfestation was carried out. This work is supervised by the staff of the Public Health Department.

## SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

### INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Number of visits or inquiries made .....	209
Number of rooms disinfected .....	27.

### SLAUGHTERHOUSE REGULATIONS AND BYELAWS.

There are in the district fourteen licensed and fourteen registered slaughterhouses and one knacker's yard. These require to be dealt with under the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act which came into operation on the 1st October, 1939, and a systematic inspection of the premises was commenced.

### PUBLIC HEALTH AND HOUSING ACTS.

The repairs and improvements enumerated below affecting one hundred and twenty-six cottages, were completed during the year. One thousand one hundred and seventy-seven visits were made and owners or agents met by appointment regarding the repairs required.

Walls and ceilings repaired .....	236
Floors relaid or repaired .....	122
Damp walls removed .....	135



Damp floors remedied .....	79
Roofs repaired .....	42
Windows, doors and other woodwork repaired or renewed .....	181
Ceilings provided .....	6.
Ceiling heights increased .....	7.
Lighting improved .....	51
Ventilation improved .....	61
Flues and fireplaces repaired .....	11.
Cooking stoves repaired or provided .....	26
Washing coppers repaired or provided .....	15
Food stores repaired or provided .....	32
Staircases repaired .....	22
Handrails provided .....	6
Sinks provided or renewed .....	30
Sink wastes trapped or provided .....	25
Fuel stores provided .....	4
Chimney stacks repaired .....	32
Gutters and downpipes repaired or provided .....	46
Rainwater butts provided .....	3
Vent pipes repaired or improved .....	7
Paving repaired or provided .....	36
Dustbins provided or renewed .....	16
Accumulations removed .....	6
Ashpit demolished .....	1
Air space at rear increased .....	2
Ditches cleansed .....	2
New drainage systems provided .....	24
Drainage systems repaired or improved .....	34
W.C's provided .....	12
W.C's repaired or ventilated .....	28
W.C's flushing apparatus provided .....	24
E.C's converted to W.C's .....	5
M.P's converted to W.C's .....	1
E.C's repaired or improved .....	4
Main water supplies provided .....	19
Wells provided .....	1
Wells repaired or improved .....	3
Septic tanks provided .....	1
Urinals improved .....	1.

#### BYELAWS RELATING TO HOP-PICKERS.

Ten farms in the district employed imported labour during the hop-picking season. This labour consisted of fifteen males, 105 females and 110 children. Five visits were made in connection with the Byelaws when three defects were noted. The necessary improvements have been made.

#### HOUSING.

##### 1. Inspection of DWELLING HOUSES during the Year:-

- (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)..... 267
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose .....1,199
- (2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925..... 89
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ..... 628

(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation .....	14.
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation .....	146.
2.	<u>Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notice :-</u>	
	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers .....	112
3.	<u>Action under Statutory Powers during the Year :-</u>	
(a)	Proceedings under sections 9,10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs .....	15
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice :-	
(a)	By Owners .....	3
(b)	By Local Authority in default of Owners ....	-
(b)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts :-	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.....	20
(2)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice:-	
(a)	By Owners .....	7
(b)	By Local Authority in default of Owners ....	-
x (c)	Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :-	
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made .....	2
(2)	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders .....	1
(d)	Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act,1936 ..	Nil.
4.	<u>Housing Act, 1936 - Overcrowding.</u>	
(a)	(1) Number of dwelling houses overcrowded at the end of the year .....	20
	(2) Number of families dwelling therein .....	20
	(3) Number of persons dwelling therein .....	140
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year .....	1
(c)	(1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year .....	5
	(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases .....	51
x	<u>NOTE.</u> In addition, the following action has been taken under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936 :-	
(1)	Number of houses upon the owner of which Time and Place Notices were served .....	12
	Number of houses in respect of which Undertakings not to re-let until the premises had been rendered fit for human habitation were accepted .....	6



Number of houses in respect of which Undertakings to repair the premises were accepted .....	5.
Number of houses in respect of which Undertakings were accepted to demolish building upon vacation by aged tenant .....	1.
(2) Number of houses which were repaired in accordance with Undertakings given.....	10.

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

#### MILK SUPPLY.

There are now 552 dairy premises in the District registered under the provisions of the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.

Ninety-seven items of improvement were carried out at various farms during the year.

One hundred and twenty-three samples of milk were taken . Of these fifty-eight were unsatisfactory. In each case the producer was notified of the result of the examination and the premises concerned were visited by the Sanitary Inspector.

#### MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDER, 1936.

Licences under the above Order were issued to eight retailers. Two samples of designated milk were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination, both of which were found to be satisfactory.

#### MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Total number of visits to Butcher's Shops and slaughterhouses .....	2544
Number of visits to slaughterhouses under the Byelaws.....	11.

#### Carcases inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed.	1182	455	543	4567	3113
Number inspected.	1040	368	445	3413	2617
All diseases except Tuberculosis.					
Whole carcasses condemned.	-	1	2	5.	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	20	20	1.	8	8
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	2.0	6.0	.68	0.4	0.3



	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Tuberculosis only.					
Whole carcasses condemned.	12.	17.	3.	-	17
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	93	79	1	-	84
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis.	9.9	27.0	0.2	-	3.86

Fifty-one whole carcasses and five hundred and eight parts or organs were found to be affected with tuberculosis and eight carcasses and sixty-seven parts or organs were affected with diseases other than tuberculosis.

Legal proceedings were taken against one person for three contraventions of these Regulations.

#### TABULAR STATEMENT OF SANITARY INSPECTIONS UNDER ARTICLE 27 (18) of the SANITARY OFFICERS (OUTSIDE LONDON) REGULATIONS.

No. of houses inspected under the Housing Acts . . . . .	125
No. of houses inspected under the Public Health Acts . . . . .	142
No. of re-inspections made to houses under Public Health or Housing Acts . . . . .	932.
No. of premises other than houses visited under Public Health Acts . . . . .	101
No. of re-inspections made to these premises . . . . .	145
Inspections of Cowsheds, Milkshops and Dairies . . . . .	582
Visits to Bakehouses . . . . .	63
" " Factories and Workshops . . . . .	20.
" " Butcher's Shops and Slaughterhouses . . . . .	2545
" " Slaughterhouses under the Byelaws . . . . .	11.
" " Food premises . . . . .	22
" " Shops . . . . .	16
" " Hoppickers Lodgings . . . . .	98
" " Refuse Tips . . . . .	2
" " Military Billets . . . . .	121
" " in connections with Tents, Vans and Sheds . . . . .	49
" " " " Rats and Mice Destruction . . . . .	50.
" " " " Water Supplies . . . . .	240.
" " " " Infectious diseases . . . . .	209
" " " " Eradication of Bed Bugs . . . . .	6.
" " " " sanitary accommodation at Schools . . . . .	38
" " " " Air Raid Precautions . . . . .	129
Miscellaneous visits . . . . .	539
Water samples taken . . . . .	91
Milk Samples taken . . . . .	123
Rooms disinfected . . . . .	27

# PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIONOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The following cases of infectious diseases were notified during the year :-

Diseases.	Total cases notified	Cases admitted to hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox .....	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever .....	50	42	-
Diphtheria .....	27	26	1
Pneumonia .....	21	-	-
Erysipelas .....	6	2	-
Puerperal Pyrexia .	12	5	-
Dysentery .....	1	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	1	-
Undulant Fever ....	3	1	1
Whooping Cough ....	23	-	-
Measles .....	1	-	-
TOTALS .....	145	77	2

DISEASES.	AGE GROUPS												
	Under One Year	1.	2.	3.	4.	5 - 10	10 - 15	15 - 20	20 - 35	35 - 45	45 - 65	Over 65	Totals
Scarlet Fever ..	-	-	2	1	3	16	19	3	4	1	-	1	50
Diphtheria .....	-	2	1	-	1	16	4	-	1	2	-	-	27
Pneumonia .....	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	4	3	6	4	21
Erysipelas .....	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	1	1	1	6
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	10	1	-	-	12
Dysentery .....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Acute Poliomyelitis...	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Undulant Fever .	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	3
Whooping Cough .	2	-	1	-	5	15	2	-	-	-	-	-	23
Measles .....	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
TOTALS .....	2	2	5	1	7	48	29	5	21	9	9	7	145



# CANCER

Deaths from Cancer during the years 1933 - 1939.

Year.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Rate per 1000 estimated population.
1933	21	26	47	1.88
1934	36	41	77	2.15
1935	29	41	70	1.83
1936	32	41	73	1.89
1937	40	49	89	2.31
1938	28	43	71	1.84
1939	44	39	83	2.02

Deaths from Cancer during 1939.

Age Periods.	Males.	Females.	Total.
15 .....	1	-	1
35 .....	4	1	5
45 .....	7	7	14
55 .....	12	8	20
65 .....	8	13	21
75 and over ...	12	10	22
Totals .....	44	39	83

## TUBERCULOSIS

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis)  
Regulations, 1925. Section 62, Public Health Act 1925.

No action was taken under either of the above headings during the year under review.

Tuberculosis - New Cases and Mortality during 1939

	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-resp.		Respiratory		Non-resp.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 .....	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 .....	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	1
5 .....	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-
15 .....	3	1	-	1	1	-	-	-
25 .....	2	2	-	1	1	3	-	-
35 .....	-	3	-	-	2	1	1	-
45 .....	6	1	-	-	3	1	-	-
55 .....	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-
65 years and upwards .....	-	-	-	-	2 <sup>x</sup>	-	-	-
Totals .....	11	7	3	5	10	7	1	1

<sup>x</sup> One non-notified case.



## DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Leaflets advocating diphtheria immunisation were issued, through schools, Child Welfare Associations, Women's Institutes and Health Visitors. The Council's Scheme, as described in the 1938 report, was advertised by posters and in the local press. In addition, the Matron of the Isolation Hospital was engaged to deliver lectures on the subject to the Women's Institutes and Infant Welfare Centres in the District.

The response was found to be slow at first; but towards the end of the year was improving. Twenty-two immunisation clinics, conducted by general practitioners, were held in the schools. The immunisation of 506 children was completed and a further 97 received a first injection, the treatment being completed in 1940. Private practitioners reported the immunisation of 55 children, for whom the Council had provided free prophylactic material.

## AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS

During the year, progress was made in the recruitment and training of Casualty Service personnel. Full courses of First Aid Lectures were held throughout the district.

Shortened Courses in First Aid were also arranged for the Wardens in the parishes of Buxted, Mayfield, Wadhurst and Rotherfield.

A First Aid Commandant was appointed for the district and was responsible for the practical and collective training of the First Aid Parties, stationed at Uckfield, Hartfield, Crowborough and Mayfield.

Equipment was issued to the two First Aid Posts and the eight First Aid Parties established in the district, and a small quantity of first aid dressings was delivered to the thirty-three first aid points.

Twelve vehicles were earmarked for use as part-time ambulances and at the commencement of hostilities, four were requisitioned for full-time duty. Use was made of the House Refuse lorry for the training of the ambulance drivers, and the women drivers handled the heavier vehicles efficiently. Towards the end of the year, in accordance with Circular 1893, negotiations were entered into for the purchase of two cars for conversion into full-time ambulances.

At the commencement of the war, the Council's A.R.P. Scheme was brought into operation and functioned efficiently. Wherever possible, the duties of personnel were arranged so as to interfere as little as possible with their normal working hours, but all were available at short notice in emergency.

Given below is a summary of enrolments in the Casualty Services up to the end of 1939:-

Service.	No. of Units.	War Establish-ment	Reserve	Total	Enrol-ments
First Aid Points.	33	396	-	396	491
First Aid Posts.	2	58	15	73	54
First Aid Parties.	8	40	20	60	57
Ambulance Service (Ambulance & Cars)	20	51	14	65	64
	63	545	49	594	666

